

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
 MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS THAT SERVICE SECRETARIES
 AND AGENCY HEADS HAVE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICIES
 WHERE THEY FEEL APPROPRIATE, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS
 MARCH 28, 1994

Inside the Pentagon

April 14, 1994

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PERRY MEMO EXPANDS SERVICES' REGULATION WAIVER AUTHORITY

Pentagon officials, charged last fall by a White House executive order to cut internal regulations by 50 percent within three years, hope a March 28 memo (reprinted below) from Defense Secretary William Perry will make their daunting task easier. The memo delegates Perry's authority to waive any DOD regulation not required by statute to further the goals of the National Performance Review to service secretaries and directors of defense agencies.

"We hope that the people coming up with suggestions will take a look at those 'regs' that are repeatedly waived as possibilities to be cut or streamlined," a DOD source said.

However, congressional sources do not expect the memo to yield an increase in waivers.

"The people who wrote the regulations are the ones who are going to decide whether or not they should be waived. Assuming they wrote them in good conscience, why would they agree to drop them?" a Senate source asked.

Pentagon sources said that the memo doesn't expand current waiver policy, only acts as a reminder that the waiver option is available.

Perry Memo on Regulation Waiver Authority

Memorandum for Secretaries of the Military Departments
 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Under Secretaries of Defense
 Comptroller of the Department of Defense
 Director, Defense Research and Engineering
 Assistant Secretaries of Defense
 General Counsel of the Department of Defense
 Inspector General of the Department of Defense
 Director, Operational Test and Evaluation
 Assistants to the Secretary of Defense
 Director, Administration and Management
 Directors of Defense Agencies

March 28, 1994

Subject: Waiver Authority

The President and Vice President have charged us to "radically change the way the government operates -- to shift from top-down bureaucracy to entrepreneurial government." To further this goal, I hereby delegate to the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Directors of the Defense Agencies the authority to waive, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense, any requirement contained in a Department of Defense Directive or, with the approval of the responsible OSD Staff Principal, any requirement contained in a Department of Defense Instruction or Publication, for activities being streamlined or reengineered in support of the National Performance Review. I expect appropriate waiver proposals to be approved whenever possible. The Service Secretaries and Defense Agency Directors may not supplement any Department of Defense requirement so waived and are encouraged to waive other require-

ments within their authority as appropriate.

The authority delegated in this memorandum shall not be used to waive any legislative regulation or issuance, or any provision required by law. With respect to requirements relating to civilian employee working conditions, this authority shall be exercised in accordance with the Charters of the National Partnership Council and the Defense Partnership Council.

Requests for approval of purposed waivers will specifically identify the regulation or issuance (or part thereof) to be waived, the installation/unit/activity affected, and the duration of the proposed waiver. Responsible Staff Principals will coordinate waiver proposals with other cognizant officials (including the General Counsel) and should, within 30 days, either act on requests for approval relating to a Department of Defense Instruction or Publication or recommend to the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense appropriate action on requests for approval relating to a Department of Defense Directive. A staff Principal's denial of a request for approval will be subject to review by the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense.

While those activities under way in support of the National Performance Review have top priority, I urge you to be as comprehensive as possible in implementing the goal articulated by the President and Vice President.

Please inform Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney, Director of the Defense Performance Review, of any waiver requests, their disposition and the results of your efforts.

William J. Perry

FEDERAL TIMES

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DoD Gets Around The Rules

By Chet Bridger

Federal Times Staff Writer

Service secretaries and agency heads now have authority to waive Defense Department policies where they see fit.

Defense Secretary William Perry made the announcement March 28 during a Pentagon ceremony held for Vice President Al Gore to honor DoD's "heroes of reinventing government."

Perry's announcement means workers can move around written policies more quickly by getting waivers within their own services.

"In one stroke you have just revolutionized the waiver process," Gore told the Defense secretary.

Gore handed reinvention awards to the Air Force Washington Headquarters Travel Office and the DoD "Real Food" team.

The Air Force travel office overhauled the travel voucher approval process. Instead of taking 17 steps and about three weeks, the new electronic travel voucher approval process has four steps and can be completed in minutes.

"It makes life easier," travel office supervisor Joan Diamond told Gore. "Everything is automated."

Perry said the Air Force system will probably be carried to other services and Defense agencies.

"We must change from a system of central control, based on mistrust of people, to one characterized by clear goals, a few guiding principles, and trust in federal workers to figure out how to achieve those goals," Gore said.

The food team eliminated military specifications for food. DoD cooks now can use their own recipes.

Gore mocked old regulations that governed making chocolate chip cookies, fruit cake and chocolate cake.

"The mil-spec food is now going to be replaced by real food," he said.

"Real Food" team members are Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Logistics James Klugh, Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Material and Resource Management Jeff Jones, and DoD chief of subsistence items, Sherry McNeil.